



**SF Environment**

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**2001  
Annual  
Report**



**Department of the Environment**  
City and County of San Francisco





**SF**Environment

## **Department of the Environment**

City and County of San Francisco



## ***2001 Annual Report***



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◀ *Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. speaks to Bay Area environmental leaders at the 4th Annual Earth Day Breakfast.*

In terms of its physical surroundings, San Francisco is perhaps the richest City on the planet. Our human diversity and wealth of cultural amenities are second to none. But like financial legacies, natural wealth can be squandered if we live too hard on the principal. We must keep close account of how our activities impact the environment, correct the course when needed, and make sure that no single community is disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards.

To meet this challenge, San Francisco has invested in our Environment Department. Just two years ago, SF Environment had 16 full time staff and a budget of just over \$1 million. As we head into fiscal year 2002-2003, SF Environment will have over 60 staff and a budget topping \$20 million, including its neighborhood grant program.

Our investment has paid off. The United States Environmental Protection Agency honored SF Environment with the 2001 Environmental Achievement Award for municipal leadership in protecting the environment and public health. Its hard-hitting programs serve as models for other cities, and San Franciscans can be proud that this is one city department that really practices what it preaches.

One of the highlights you'll read more about in this report is SF Environment's new Environmental Justice Program. This program is dedicated to making sure that all San Francisco residents are treated fairly regarding environmental quality, and has distributed nearly \$12

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million to environmental health and clean energy projects in the Bayview Hunters Point and Potrero Hill communities, two areas that have traditionally borne a disproportionate burden of San Francisco's environmental pollution.

SF Environment also runs programs to reduce pesticide use in San Francisco and pioneer innovative non-chemical pest control methods. The city has 10 construction projects on-line designed to incorporate the latest green building techniques, including the \$500 million Laguna Honda Hospital project, which when completed will be the nation's first green hospital. The Clean Air Program has helped the City purchase over 300 alternative fuel vehicles for its fleet, including street sweepers and long-haul garbage trucks.

SF Environment is also in charge now of the City's recycling and hazardous waste programs. You may recently have heard about San Francisco's 10 percent increase in citywide recycling between 1999 and 2000. Now at 46 percent, we are well on our way to meet the state-mandated 50 percent recycling rate. Once we hit that, we'll set our target at zero waste!

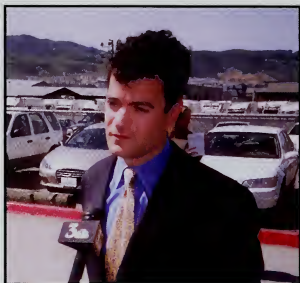
With your help, I know we can reach this goal – and incorporate many other smart practices into our homes and businesses that will protect our environment, and preserve our unique quality of life.



Willie L. Brown, Jr.

## The City gets a new Eco-Chief: Jared Blumenfeld

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In keeping with the tradition of naming environmental advocates to the City's Department of the Environment, Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr. appointed a new department head in September 2001 who has left his mark on some of the nation's top conservation organizations.

Jared Blumenfeld comes to the City from the Cape Cod, Massachusetts-based International Fund for Animal Welfare, where he was global habitat director. Over the past five years, Jared has worked on environmental problems in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Central and South America, battling in corporate boardrooms and working directly with indigenous communities. He led International Fund for Animal Welfare's successful campaign to stop Mitsubishi Corporation from building a salt factory in Baja's San Ignacio Lagoon, the winter calving grounds for the gray whale.

Jared has also worked as the executive director of Earth Summit Watch, a project of the Natural Resources Defense Council that organized campaigns on improving the quality of air and drinking, and certifying timber as logged in an environmentally responsible manner. Before that Jared worked with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now EarthJustice) to document links between human rights and the environment.

Blumenfeld received a law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at UC Berkeley, specializing in environmental law and human rights, and a degree from the University of London in international environmental law. He is a member of the New York Bar.

Announcing Jared's appointment, Mayor Willie Brown said "the City's Environment Department is responsible for making sure that we leave a better Bay Area for future generations, so it's vital that its director is willing to fight for what's right. Our legacy depends on our continued commitment to environmental conservation, protection and restoration, and I'm confident that Jared will take us in the right direction."

Jared is excited about the prospect of working with the Bay Area's environmental community to make real progress on improving our quality of life.

"The City has been at the vanguard of the environmental movement for generations, and nowhere else on earth will you find a more environmentally aware and active public than in San Francisco," Jared said. "I am certain that together we can help to resolve serious environmental justice issues in the City's southeast neighborhoods, erosion problems at Ocean Beach, and potentially catastrophic loss of natural habitat."

"Together," Jared continued, "we can make San Francisco a model of sustainability for the planet: one in which we encourage sustainable businesses to strengthen our economy, one in which we integrate sustainability into our planning processes, our decision-making, and our renewed determination to ensure environmental equity for all our residents."

*SF Environment director  
Jared Blumenfeld, at the  
podium, accepts the US  
EPA's 2001 Environmental  
Achievement Award, with  
EPA Region 9 director  
Wayne Nastri, and  
SF Environment staffers  
Hillary Amsberry,  
Mark Westlund,  
David Assmann,  
Mark Palmer, and  
Paul Horcher.*





**SF Environment**

SF Environment is the Department of the Environment for the City & County of San Francisco.

Our mission is to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment, and to promote San Francisco's long-term environmental well being. We help neighborhood groups meet their environmental interests by matching them up with the right City departments, and provide a central outlet for environmental information and referral services.

SF Environment advises the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on all environmental matters, develops environmental policies and legislation and coordinates the City's environmental programs



## SF ENVIRONMENT STAFF

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**Jared Blumenfeld**  
*Director*

**David Assmann**  
*Deputy Director*

**Paul Horcher**  
*Deputy Director*

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Hillary Amsberry  
Sraddha Mehta  
Anthony Oum  
Yvonne Webb

### TOXIC MATERIALS/RECYCLING

Deborah O. Raphael

#### *Toxic Materials*

Alex Erzen  
Janine Goldberg  
Pearl Moy  
Marjaneh Zarrepharvar

#### *Recycling Program*

Rebecca Goldman  
Murrell Green  
Robert Haley  
Alexa Kielty  
Jack Macy  
Miles Wagner

#### *Environmentally Preferable Purchasing*

Alex Dong

### CLIMATE CHANGE

#### *Clean Air Program*

Rick Ruvolo  
Tom Adams  
Clark Aganon  
Sally Scott  
Ina Shlez

#### *Green Building*

Kevin Drew  
Mark Palmer

#### *Power Savers*

Raymond Chu  
Carmen Nolasco  
Patricia Parra  
Hank Ryan

#### *Sustainable Energy*

Cal Broomhead  
Danielle Dowers  
Ann Kelly  
Peter O'Donnell

### PUBLIC OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Mark Westlund

#### *Public Outreach*

Jim Chien  
Iris Rong  
Lolita Sweet  
Maria Trapalis-Baird

#### *School Education*

Nicole Brisebois  
Mario Padilla  
Eric Sit  
Natasha Stillman  
Abby Templer  
Rebecca Wike

### ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Kristal Aliyas

### ADMINISTRATION

Annie Cabatuan  
Claudia Molina  
Bo-Ming Ng  
Carmen Omran  
Ruth Santander  
Nelly Sun  
Rex Tabora

## CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM

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### *Doing more – and doing better – with less.*

SF Environment's Climate Change Program coordinates the city's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. These include resource efficiency and energy conservation efforts, as well as clean fuel and Transit First!

### *"Power Savers" brings big savings to small businesses*

Filling a unique niche among energy efficiency efforts, a first-of-its-kind program offered by SF Environment provides free expert consulting services to help small business owners implement cost-effective measures for conserving electricity and reducing energy costs.

SF Environment received \$8 million from the California Public Utilities Commission to launch the Power Savers Program, which conducts small businesses energy efficiency audits at no cost to the owner. For a low fee, the program also replaces energy-guzzling lighting systems with efficient compact fluorescent lighting, and provides a wide range of technical services from identifying and rating potential energy saving options, to installing new equipment.

"There are energy efficiency programs in place at PG&E to help the big guys, but there are no programs designed specifically to address the energy efficiency needs of our small business community," said Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. "Energy conservation is good for the community, good for the environment, and good for the pocket-book."

Each small business can save at least one dollar every month for each old fluorescent light tube that gets replaced with new high-efficiency tubes. The quality of light is much brighter, too, which can translate into greater sales.

By the end of 2003, Power Savers will conduct audits at 6,000 small businesses and optimize lighting efficiency in 4,000. This will reduce peak use in the summer by 6 megawatts and will save 24 million kilowatt hours annually – enough energy to power nearly 12,000 San Francisco households for one year.

*Power Savers conducted an energy-efficient lighting upgrade at Artisans custom framing shop on Union Street, which lowered monthly electricity bills – and the improved retail environment has boosted sales!*



### ***Green Buildings get underway!***

The Resource Efficiency Program is responsible for implementing the City's Resource Efficient Building Ordinance. Resource-efficient buildings – also called “green” buildings – are designed and operated in an energy-efficient and environmentally friendly manner. By cutting down on the amount of energy, water and materials used, these buildings have the potential to save the City millions of dollars.

Last year the Program designated ten green building pilot projects, and this year several of the projects – including two of the largest – are getting underway.

The Recreation and Parks Department broke ground in 2001 on the new West End Pavilion in Golden Gate Park. This public meeting space was designed by renowned architect Sim Van Der Ryn to create an indoor/outdoor teaching environment for the community and for San Francisco schools. The building is meant to blur the distinction between inside and outside, and will include special features such as a living roof with flowering sedum plants, an earth berm to protect the site from ocean winds, a concrete floor with built-in radiant heating, natural ventilation, and environmentally sound interior finishes.



◀ *City employees will work in green offices at 525 Golden Gate Ave.*

Other pilot projects that will soon be moving off of the drawing board are the Laguna Honda Hospital reconstruction, and a new city administrative office building to be located at 525 Golden Gate Avenue. Each of these massive projects will be 10 percent more energy efficient than the stringent California Energy Code requires.

The \$500 million Laguna Honda Hospital project, which when completed will be the nation's first "green hospital," is being designed to qualify for the United States Green Building Council rating of LEED Certified, and 525 Golden Gate is being designed to achieve a rating of LEED Silver. LEED stands for "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design."



▲ *Laguna Honda will be the nation's first green hospital.*

The LEED Green Building Rating System is both a comprehensive rating system and a compendium of information for building professionals. It evaluates environmental and energy efficiency performance from a "whole building" perspective over a building's life cycle, providing a definitive standard for what constitutes a "green building." Ratings range from "Certified" to "Platinum."

As part of the Green Building Program, city architects have completed workshops on Green Architecture, Green Building Materials, and LEED Training.

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## ***Re-use saves resources***

The Resource Efficiency Program expanded its services in 2001 to include Construction & Demolition (C&D) Management. The program identifies potential markets for materials such as concrete, asphalt, and lumber recovered from buildings that are being torn down, and encourages re-use of these materials in new construction.

Four WWII-era barracks on Treasure Island were torn down carefully with an eye on re-using the valuable old growth redwood and Douglas fir from which they were made. As an added benefit, a team of five former homeless persons did the work as part of the Treasure Island Homeless Development Initiative program to teach skills that will help secure future employment in the construction and reuse trades.

“This project protects our last old growth forests, builds career skills, and diverts bulky material away from our near-capacity landfill,” said SF Environment director Jared Blumenfeld.

The barrack “deconstruction” project recovered over 20,000 board feet of lumber. This was equivalent to saving two or three giant old growth trees, and was equal to the amount of usable wood from up to two acres of some redwood forests available for commercial logging today. Only 22 percent of the world’s old growth forests remain intact; in the United States, less than 4 percent of the old growth forests are still standing.



*WWII barracks on Treasure Island yielded 20,000 board feet of good lumber that would otherwise have ended up in the landfill.*



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Moscone West Convention Center, one of the City's Green Building pilot projects, is another C&D success story. Old buildings at the Howard Street site were demolished, but project managers were able to save more than 80 percent of the debris from going to the landfill. Recycled materials included concrete, steel, soil, copper, aluminum, plumbing fixtures and appliances. The project won statewide recognition from the California Integrated Waste Management Board's Waste Reduction Award Program.

### ***Solar Home Tour***

SF Environment conducted its first Solar Home Tour in October. The event was a great success, attracting nearly 70 participants who visited a solar-powered school, a business, and three private residences. Muni provided two new hybrid electric buses to caravan attendees from site to site.

Proud homeowners graciously opened their homes to display both solar panels and solar water heating systems. Everyone on the tour saw a PG&E meter actually running backwards!



*Treasurer Susan Leal, Supervisors Gerardo Sandoval, Mark Leno, Aaron Peskin, Gavin Newsom, Sophie Maxwell, Matt Gonzalez, and Mayor Brown all pedaled to City Hall on "Bike to Work Day."*





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## ***Making our air easier to breathe by reducing emissions!***

The Clean Air Program works to reduce automobile emissions through programs that promote trip reduction, transit incentives, and environmentally friendly vehicles. The Clean Air Program is also responsible for implementing the Healthy Air and Smog Prevention Ordinance, which requires that all new vehicles the City purchases must be powered by low or zero-emission engines.

In 2001 the Clean Air Program helped Norcal Waste Systems, Inc., the company that hauls San Francisco's waste stream material, purchase the Bay Area's first long-haul garbage trucks that run on low-emission Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The Program also helped develop the region's first LNG fueling station. Each one of Norcal's fourteen LNG trucks operates between 600 and 700 miles per day as it travels to and from the Altamont landfill. This saves over 300,000 gallons of diesel fuel per year, and all of the cancer-causing particulate emissions associated with diesel.

The Clean Air Program worked to add one hundred new vehicles to the City's clean air vehicle fleet, which now totals over 400, opened a new Compressed Natural Gas filling station at 3rd and 23rd Streets, and launched one of the region's first public biodiesel stations.



◀ *SF Environment's Jared Blumenfeld joins Norcal President Mike Sangiacomo and Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano to send off Norcal's fleet of low-emission trucks.*

### ***An environmental titan joins SF Environment!***

The City's recycling program has been part of City operations since 1987, but was consolidated into SF Environment in 2001 from its long-time home in the Department of Administrative Services.

### ***San Francisco recycling improves nearly 10 percent in one calendar year***

The "city that knows how" is well on its way to making recycling history. New statistics indicate that citywide recycling and waste diversion went up almost 10 percent between 1999 and 2000, and that San Francisco is well on its way to meeting state-mandated 50 percent total diversion.

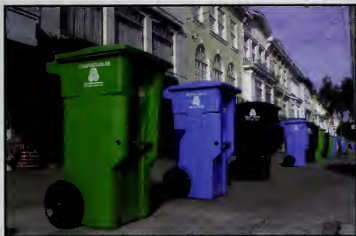
The figures for the year 2000, which SF Environment filed in December 2001 with the California Integrated Waste Management Board, show that San Franciscans generated 1,621,110 tons of waste material in 2000. Of this, 872,731 tons went into landfill, while 748,379 tons were diverted through recycling and reuse efforts. This represents a diversion rate of 46 percent, up from 42 percent in 1999 – a real increase in diversion of 9.5 percent.

"San Francisco's stellar performance in recycling is a testament to how much the environment means to Bay Area residents," said SF Environment director Jared Blumenfeld. The City – in conjunction with Norcal Waste Systems, Inc. – introduced several new recycling programs, and in each case the residents and businesses of San Francisco met the challenge.

One new program is the "Fantastic Three" program, which provides three carts for curbside recycling pickup of food and yard scraps; paper, cans and bottles; and non-recyclable waste. The Fantastic Three program has been rolled out so far to 62,000 households.



photo from Larry Strong



## Organic recycling took off in 2001

The amount of waste stream material generated in San Francisco in 2000 was almost double the weight of the Golden Gate Bridge, but once we've covered cans, bottles, paper and the basics of recycling, it becomes important to identify new areas of material to divert from the waste stream.

photo from Larry Strong



▲ *San Francisco's three-cart recycling system, called Fantastic Three, has improved recycling by an average of 90 percent.*

San Francisco has the most successful food-recycling program of any city in the country, with more than 50,000 households and 1,000 businesses participating.

The food scrap and yard trimming collection offered through Fantastic Three is the first time that this kind of

1

2

3

RECYCLE

COMPOST

TRASH

All Cans, Glass, Paper, and Cardboard

All Food Scraps, Food-Soiled Paper, and Yard Trimmings

What's Left Over?

## Food Scraps Too!

A green recycling bin filled with food scraps and yard trimmings. The bin is overflowing with various items, including food scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic waste. A yellow arrow points from the text 'COMPOST' towards the bin.

**COMPOST**  
Food Scraps  
and Food-Soiled Paper  
with Your Yard Trimmings  
Together in the Green Cart!

Learn more about recycling from your local recycling companies at  
[WWW.SUNSETGARDENER.COM](http://WWW.SUNSETGARDENER.COM) [WWW.SOLIDWASTEDISPOSAL.COM](http://WWW.SOLIDWASTEDISPOSAL.COM)

service has been offered to San Francisco residences. The material included all food scraps plus meat and bones, soiled paper, waxed cardboard, animal bedding, and yard trimmings.



▲ *San Francisco has the most successful food-recycling program of any city in the country.*

Commercial food scrap recycling has also proved to be a significant factor in San Francisco's improved recycling rate. To give restaurants and hotels an incentive to recycle as much as possible, they get a 25 percent discount off the standard waste pickup-rate for food scraps and other compostables.

Together, these programs accounted for nearly 40,000 tons of food scrap and other compostables.

"The successes of Fantastic Three and our commercial food scrap and organic waste collection programs put us in position to hit 50 percent diversion, possibly as early as the end of 2002," said Blumenfeld. "From there, we move our goal to zero waste."



▲ *Norcal Waste Systems' Jepson Prairie Organic Composting Facility near Vacaville processes 200 tons of San Francisco's organic waste into compost each day. The finished product is marketed to landscaping and agricultural users - including organic farmers who sell their vegetables back to restaurants in San Francisco!*

## ***Making compost at home***

If you've got the room to make compost at home, you can create some first class dirt for your garden – and help keep tons of material out of the waste stream. SF Environment works with the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (better know as SLUG) to conduct home and school composting programs that include workshops, educational materials, and composting field trips. This year the program distributed 1,246 low cost home compost bins and 462 worm bins, for a total of nearly 20,000 bins since 1991 – which account for an estimated 3,415 tons of organic material kept from the landfill in 2001 alone!

## ***Recognizing Outstanding Commercial Recyclers***

SF Environment and the Building Owners & Managers Association presented the Commercial Recycler of the Year Awards (we call them the CORYs) to businesses that have achieved excellence in recycling.

The Huntington Hotel & Nob Hill Spa, one of the CORY winners, has been recycling paper, cardboard and beverage containers for 10 years now, but the dedicated staff of this family-owned establishment wanted to do even more. With the help of Golden Gate Recycling & Disposal Company, they instituted a composting program, separating food scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic materials which allowed them to go from three one yard bins of garbage a day down to one. The hotel now recycles 70 percent of its waste and has reduced its disposal costs significantly.



▲ *Fairmont Hotel chef Shane Robilliard receives the CORY Award's Golden Dumpster from ABC 7 meteorologist Joel Bartlett, and SF Environment's Jared Blumenfeld and Lolita Sweet.*

Other CORY winners included The Fairmont Hotel, The Handlery Union Square, The Hilton, Westin St. Francis, Boulevard Restaurant, Carta, Greens, Jardinere, Moonstar, Scoma's, Sparkey's Diner, Tadich Grill, Ti Couz, Atlas, Dago Mary's, Lovejoy's Tea Room, Masala, Mescolanza, Royal Thai, and all three Mozzarella Di Bufala locations. The top recycling office buildings were 650 California, 1 Embarcadero, 1 Market Plaza, 525 Market Street, 100 Pine Street, Bank of America Center, Post Montgomery Center, and State Compensation Insurance Fund Building.

Imagine six giant Christmas trees, each one the size of the Statue of Liberty. That's what you'd get if you put together the 80,000 Christmas trees that San Franciscans recycled in 2000, representing 775 tons of waste stream material that might have gone into landfill. Chipping is the first step in the recycling process before the trees get a new life as garden mulch, or high efficiency fuel for power plants.



Girl Scouts from Children's Day School tagged Christmas trees at Delancey Street's Embarcadero lot with curbside Christmas tree recycling schedules.

### ***Taking aim at San Francisco's hazardous waste***

SF Environment's Toxics Reduction Program works to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated in San Francisco by educating residents, businesses, and City departments about alternatives to purchasing hazardous products, and about hazardous waste disposal options.

The Program also helps City departments comply with the 1996 municipal Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Ordinance, which commits the City to a pest management approach on its own property that minimizes the use of toxic chemicals and gets rid of pests by methods that pose a lower risk to public and environmental health.

### ***Better ways to control weeds and pests***

SF Environment staff completed a careful analysis of pesticide use data for all city departments. The results show an interesting trend in the way pesticides are used on city property since the inception of the IPM ordinance in 1996.

Over the past 4 years, the number of pesticide applications has increased between 4 and 5 fold; however, the amount of actual product used declined by about 50 percent overall – and by 85 percent for the herbicide RoundUp.

These numbers indicate a fundamental shift away from large broadcast applications of pesticides to highly targeted small spot applications. This targeted use of pesticides coupled with a wide array of non-chemical approaches to pest control is indicative of a healthy and successful IPM program throughout the City.

Looking for efficient weed control plus great entertainment? San Francisco has found both by using herds of goats to clear away poison oak and other problem weeds on steep watersheds, open spaces in parks, and in overgrown areas at the airport. Portable fences, herding dogs, and shepherds ensure that the goats stick to business in target areas.



IPM specialist Ralph Montana releases beneficial insects to fight pests in Golden Gate Park's Conservatory of Flowers. These natural enemies have replaced many of the insecticides formerly used against common pests of plants grown indoors.



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## ***Education is critical***

Training of City staff is a key element of San Francisco's IPM program. A wide variety of training opportunities are made available through SF Environment as well as by individual departments.

- IPM Conference – Over 200 people attended the all day affair with people traveling from as far away as Arcata and Los Angeles.
- IPM Coordinator's Workshop – San Francisco was proud to host the first-ever statewide full-day workshop for IPM Coordinators from school districts and all levels of government agencies. The Workshop was co-hosted by the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service with special funding provided by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.
- The Landscape Management Outreach Partnership offered seminars to private landscapers and City Department gardeners. The California Integrated Waste Management Board, as well as Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Solano and San Francisco counties created this partnership.
- Eco Center display – Department of the Environment Staff worked with Bob Fiorello, a gardener at San Francisco's Arboretum, to assemble a living IPM display for the public in the Eco Center at 11 Grove Street. The display offers alternative products and pest resistant plants as well as information on integrated pest management and composting.

## ***Keeping hazardous waste from our landfill***

SF Environment's hazardous waste reduction program collected 650 tons of hazardous waste in 2001 through the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at 301 Tunnel Road, the curbside pick-up program, and through citywide paint and battery drop-off sites. A one-day household hazardous waste collection event at Oceanside Treatment Plant collected eleven tons of hazardous waste at no charge. The City also collected 270 tons of used motor oil at its 38 certified oil collection centers located throughout the City, including a new oil shed at Hyde Street Pier.

Other hazardous waste collection programs added to the City's arsenal in 2001 include efforts to reclaim televisions and computer monitors that collected 27 tons of electronic waste at neighborhood events, a used battery collection program with collection stations at Walgreen's Pharmacies, and a program to reuse old cellular phones. This program, with collection points at Verizon stores, donated discarded phones to victims of domestic violence.



◀ *SF Environment funded a new oil collection facility at Hyde Street Pier with a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.*

▶ *Twenty-seven tons of televisions, computer monitors and other discarded electrical appliances were collected at neighborhood events in 2001. Picture tubes and monitors contain mercury and other hazardous elements.*





### *Teaching the ABCs of Recycling*

San Francisco has 250 public and private schools, with a student population of 88,000. SF Environment reached over a third of these students in 1990 with word about waste prevention through its School Education Program. The Program offers teachers' workshops and training sessions, peer education, and informational field trips and assembly presentations.

### *Organics Collection in Schools*

While many of San Francisco's schools have implemented successful paper and beverage container recycling programs, few have addressed organic material, specifically food scraps.

With grants from the California Integrated Waste Management Board and the San Francisco Foundation, SF Environment assisted eleven schools with implementing collection programs for food scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic waste.

First we worked with teachers at faculty meetings, workshops, and in one-on-one meetings. Then we got the students involved by having them go through the school's garbage cans to count what was being thrown away at lunch. We did in-class presentations, made posters and conducted assemblies. We trained students to serve as lunchtime monitors to help their fellow students identify everything that could be recycled, and worked with each school to fine-tune the program.

Waste audits show that participating schools have already reduced their landfill-bound discards by 50 percent – while students learn the ABCs of waste reduction, and get an opportunity to serve their school community.



▲ *SF Environment's education program offers students hands-on, hands-in experience separating the good stuff from the garbage.*

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## ***Model School Program***

As part of the Model School Grant provided by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, SF Environment provided several schools with the educational and technical resources needed to initiate high volume waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting projects. As part of the Model School Program, SF Environment assisted the San Francisco Community School with developing their learning garden and playground space with recycled and reused materials. Grants funds were also used to purchase a dishwasher for Commodore Stockton Child Development Center. The center was serving almost 1,000 meals a week on Styrofoam, and the new dishwasher and dishes helped to dramatically reduce their waste.

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- ▲ *The Neighborhood Green Project is an innovative 14-month program that prepares residents of the Bayview and Potrero Hill neighborhoods for careers in horticulture. The \$1.5 million program, funded by SF Environment, joins neighborhood non-profits with Strybing Arboretum and the Recreation and Parks Department.*

# *Environmental Justice*

### *Nearly \$12 million goes into the community*

In an effort to get the money where it's needed most, SF Environment has earmarked nearly \$12 million for community environmental health and energy programs in Bayview Hunters Point and Potrero Hill.

In total, \$8,614,393 has been approved for thirteen community projects, and an additional \$3,000,000 has been earmarked to support priorities identified by the Mayor's Environmental Health and Energy task force, chaired by District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell.

The grant funds were made available by the California Public Utilities Commission for projects intended to address neighborhood environmental issues arising from the sale and possible expansion of the Potrero Hill power plant, as well as the shut down of the Hunters Point power plant.

"Bayview Hunters Point and Potrero Hill carry a heavy environmental burden for San Francisco," said SF Environment's Jared Blumenfeld. "It's great to be able to get a significant amount of money directly into the community to help."

### ***2001 Environmental Justice Grants***

- ARC Ecology: \$396,911 for community info center, including shipyard cleanup and emergency alerts.
- Bayview Hunters Point Advocates and SF Environment: \$1,500,000 for design, installation and maintenance of alternative energy facilities.
- Department of Public Health: \$330,000 for environmental health outreach.
- Green action: \$150,000 to launch an education campaign pertaining to superfund site cleanup and power plant shutdown.
- Health and Environmental Resource Center: \$500,000 for planning expansion of existing center.

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- Literacy for Environmental Justice: \$897,942 to create a “living classroom” at Heron’s Head Park.
  - M. Cubed: \$1,500,000 to train residents how to conduct energy audits and improve energy efficiency.
  - Potrero Hill Neighborhood House: \$475,000 to conduct an energy retrofit of this neighborhood-serving building.
  - Strybing Arboretum: \$1,500,000 to establish horticultural jobs training program.
  - Tetra Tech and Potrero Hill Middle School: \$355,540 to install solar panels and windmills at the school.
  - Trust for Public Land: \$300,000 for improvements to the waterfront recreational facility at India Basin Shoreline.
  - Young Community Developers: \$409,000 for job training program on identifying and abating hazardous materials.



▲ *The meter runs backwards at Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, thanks to its new SF Environment-funded solar roof.*

The Commission on the Environment was established in 1995. There are seven commissioners appointed by the Mayor, who each serve a four-year term.

- Parin Shah, President
- Rebecca Evans, Vice President
- Rev. Sally Bingham
- Shelley Bradford-Bell
- Randall Hayes
- Arlene Rodriguez
- Robert K. Werbe

The Commission on the Environment makes environmental policy recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, usually in the form of resolutions. Over the past year, many of the resolutions passed by the Commission were eventually heard before the Board of Supervisors and have been enacted into City and County policy.

The Commission has set a goal to hold meetings in each of the eleven supervisorial districts to hear neighborhood environmental concerns, and has held meetings in Bayview/Hunters Point, Lake Merced, Nob Hill, Haight/Ashbury, the Sunset, and the Richmond District.

The Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month. Check with the commission secretary at 415/355-3700 or visit [www.sfenvironment.com](http://www.sfenvironment.com) for location. Meetings are open to the public.

### ***Commission on the Environment Resolutions 2001***

- Urging the San Francisco County Transportation Authority to authorize only funding for alternative fuel buses and not for any new diesel buses. (In response to this and related legislation, Muni launched a low-emission bus pilot program, and agreed to base future bus purchases on the results of this program.)
- Urging the City and County of San Francisco to craft a solar power-bond for consideration on the November 2001 ballot to provide funding for solar power technology to generate power and heat for San Francisco's public buildings. (Sponsored by Supervisor Mark Leno, approved by voters as Proposition B in 2001.)

- Urging the Recreation and Park Department and the Public Utilities Commission to decrease the use of pesticides on city-owned golf courses. (The Recreation and Parks Department is now developing an integrated pest management plan for golf courses, including using compost tea instead of pesticides, which will be a model for public and private golf courses nationwide.)
- Urging the City and County of San Francisco to urge PG&E, Pacific Bell, and manufacturers of non-wood utility poles to conduct a study of alternatives to chemically treated wood poles and to urge all pole owners to take steps to protect public health and the environment from wood preservatives in utility poles. (Sponsored by Supervisor Aaron Peskin, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2001.)
- Urging the City and County of San Francisco to require that city departments purchase and use only rechargeable batteries, and urging the City and County of San Francisco to increase battery recycling. (Sponsored by Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2001.)
- Urging the mayor and the Board of Supervisors to urge the US Environmental Protection Agency to require that manufacturers and registrants of pesticide products fully disclose all inert ingredients on pesticide product labels. (Sponsored by Supervisor Aaron Peskin, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2001.)



▲ *The Commission on the Environment held neighborhood meetings to hear community environmental concerns, this one at the Bayview Opera House.*

- Urging the mayor and the Board of Supervisors to support efforts to curb global warming, adopt greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals for the City and County of San Francisco in excess of the targeted goals of the Kyoto Protocol, and call for continued actions towards achieving these goals. (Sponsored by Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. Adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2002.)

## SF ENVIRONMENT BUDGET

### *Fiscal year 2001-2002*

Administration, Outreach & Policy	\$ 683,339
Environmental Justice	\$ 9,481,034
Energy Conservation & Efficiency	\$ 5,760,051
Green Building	\$ 316,205
Clean Air	\$ 4,817,920
Recycling, Toxics Reduction & Solid Waste	\$ 8,023,916
Integrated Pest Management	\$ 127,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 29,209,465</b>





**SF Environment**

We make it easy for residents to find out what the City is doing to protect the environment.

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SF Environment  
11 Grove Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 355-3700  
[environment@sfgov.org](mailto:environment@sfgov.org)



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